

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7034

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1205

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MT, US

SUBJ: APPROACH BY MALTESE NATIONALIST PARTY OFFICIAL

REF: LONDON 16665

1. MALTESE NATIONALIST PARTY OFFICIAL REFERRED TO IN REFTEL IS APPARENTLY ALBERT BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET, AGE 44, WHO IS THE NEPHEW OF NATIONALIST LEADER DR. GIORGIO BORG OLIVIER AND A MEMBER OF THE MALTESE PARLIAMENT.

2. ALBERT BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET IS WELL-KNOWN TO THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS. HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT NOW HAVE "FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PARTY."

3. AS A MATTER OF FACT, DUE TO HIS OUTSPOKEN PUBLIC COMMENTS AGAINST COLONEL QADHAFI DURING THE LIBYAN LEADER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALTA IN DECEMBER 1974, BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET WAS POINTEDLY DISMISSED AS SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER BY THE NATIONALIST PARTY LEADERSHIP. SINCE THAT TIME, THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE PARTY HAVE SHARED THIS RESPONSIBILITY, NOT BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET. THE LATTER IS NEITHER
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LIKED NOR TRUSTED BY HIS NATIONALIST COLLEAGUES, MANY OF WHOM ACCUSE HIM OF RIDING TOO LONG ON HIS UNCLE'S

COAT TAILS AND OF BEING TOO RABIDLY RIGHT-WING.

4. BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET HAD LITTLE PUBLIC ROLE IN THE NATIONALIST PARTY'S CAMPAIGN DURING THE RECENT MALTESE ELECTION, AND HE, HIMSELF, WAS ONLY BARELY RETURNED TO PARLIAMENT.

5. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS BORG OLIVIER DE PUGET TO BE EXCITABLE, VERY OPINIONATED, UNDERSTANDABLY DEJECTED AT HIS PARTY'S DEFEAT AT THE POLLS, AND THEREFORE HARDLY AN OBJECTIVE OBSERVER OF THE PRESENT MALTESE SCENE. HE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE A RELIABLE SOURCE OF "ACCURATE INFORMATION ON MINTOFF," WHO DETEST HIM.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT HE BE GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT WHATSOEVER REGARDING HIS SELF-SERVING PROPOSAL. WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO SEE HIM HERE AS WARRANTED, AS WELL AS OTHER MORE RESPONSIBLE NATIONALIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVES AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE.
SMITH

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NNN

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